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CAMBODIA: The prospect is growing that presidential candidate In Tam will make a strong showing in the 4 June election unless the government takes some pre-emptory action.

Political pundits in Cambodia believe that In Tam is running well ahead of President Lon Nol in several population centers, including Phnom Penh, where the former deputy prime minister's campaign is being aided by large numbers of student volunteers. Tam reportedly is the strong choice of government employees, the police, and urban workers. Several sources claim that he has even made inroads among the military rank and file, who were thought to be solidly behind Lon Nol.

Although reports of In Tam's voter appeal are highly impressionistic, they are having an impact on Lon Nol's once complacent supporters. Some of his backers are now advising that drastic steps may be necessary to keep In Tam from winning, while others apparently have made a fresh effort to get In Tam to withdraw his candidacy in return for the vice-presidency or prime ministership. Although his resolution could waver, In Tam has stated publicly and privately that he will stay in the race to the end.

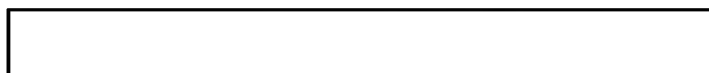
The military establishment has begun to swing into action to stem the apparent trend toward In Tam. The army has organized pro - Lon Nol parades in Phnom Penh, and shopkeepers there and in other population centers have been coaxed into displaying pictures of the marshal. There evidently has also been some minor harassment of In Tam's backers, and important generals have publicly referred to "coups" or the possibility of "civil war" if In Tam is elected. Such statements are almost certainly designed in part to intimidate the electorate into voting for Lon Nol.

As things now stand, the election is shaping up as a net loss for the government no matter what happens. Lon Nol would clearly prefer an honest

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election, but neither he nor the army leaders seem inclined to accept a defeat at the polls. This could lead them either to manipulate the vote count if In Tam appears headed for a victory or to resort to some extra-constitutional device to keep Lon Nol in power. In either case, the legitimacy of Lon Nol's position would be weakened. Because of the widespread belief that In Tam is now ahead, a final tally that gave Lon Nol a substantial majority would probably be interpreted as evidence of foul play, even if that were not the case. A narrow victory would dash Lon Nol's hope for a strong mandate, but it would have the advantage of being more palatable to his opponent.

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KENYA: Tribal enmity within the military continues to grow. Several incidents, including a mess-hall fight, have occurred over the past week between members of President Kenyatta's Kikuyu tribe and rival Kamba tribesmen. Kenyatta is aware of the sharpened tension as well as of rumors of coup plotting by Kamba officers. The President, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] has refused to cancel celebrations on 1 June in which the military will participate.

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